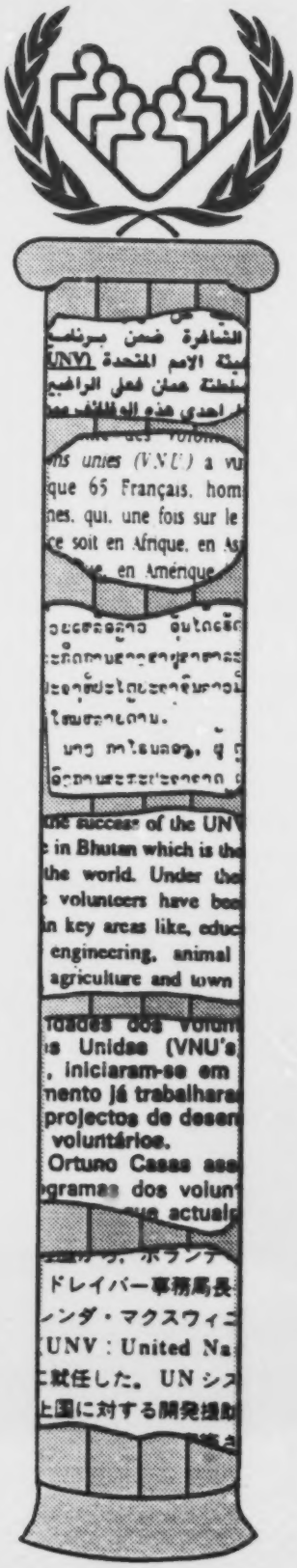

the

# UNV COLUMN

Published for immediate release
by
United Nations Volunteers

March 1990

**THE UNV COLUMN**

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READEX

**90/3 A NAMIBIA - UNV FIRST TO DEPLOY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALISTS, APPEALS FOR TEACHER VOLUNTEERS**

**- BELGIUM OFFERS FULL FUNDING FOR TEN POSTS.**

With seven doctors, two air traffic controllers and a Programme Officer already at work, the UN Volunteers is the first of the United Nations Agencies to have its long-term development specialists in position in newly independent Namibia. And Belgium's Minister of Development Co-operation, M. André Geens, has offered to provide the average outlay of US $ 25,000 per head to enable up to ten Belgian citizens to serve with UNV in health or education in Namibia.

The medical doctors (from Myanmar, Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda and Tanzania) are based in Oshakati and Katima-Mulilo in the north of the country. The air traffic controllers are Mahmoud Al-Dayeh from **Syria** and Augustine Mgohagulema from **Tanzania**: they are working under the supervision of the national Department of Public Works and Transport.

UNV is appealing for volunteers (from any country) to fill twenty secondary level teaching posts in Ruacana and other towns throughout Namibia - at the request of the Namibian authorities, by 1st May. The subjects sought are the English language, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

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Belgian candidates for either the teaching or medical posts should contact the Section de Recrutement, Service du Volontariat, Administration générale de la co-opération au développement (AGCD), Salle 620 (6me. étage), Place de Champ-de-Mars 5, Boîte 57, 1050 Brussels.

<Ends>

**90/3 B CHINA JOINS UNV GRASSROOTS PROJECT IN ASIA**

The People's Republic of China is the tenth and most recent signatory to the Asian Regional Domestic Development Service (DDS) Project of the United Nations Volunteers. This participatory development project at the grassroots, based on the exchange of experienced village-level field workers from around the Asian region, has been outstandingly successful since launched in 1978. There alone it has created 700 community development and youth groups in nine countries, and strengthened more than 1,000 others.

The first ten Chinese field workers to participate will be selected by May by the All-China Youth Foundation. It is proposed that the first three serve for two years each, respectively with the Department of Youth and Sports in Bangladesh, the Social Service National Co-ordination Council in Nepal and the National Youth Services Council in Sri Lanka. In August reciprocal short-term training is also planned, in China for three managers of Bangladeshi, Nepalese and Sri Lankan youth and community development organisations, and for Chinese managers in two of those countries.

China's decision to join follows a fact-finding visit to the project's Kuala Lumpur headquarters and to Nepal and Sri Lanka by Mr. Chen Yi, Deputy Director of the All-China Youth Federation. He found the DDS Asian project "unique in nature and form. It is a small-size project reaching to the people at grass-roots level, and a two-way exchange within the framework of South-South co-operation. Its impact is comprehensive and long-term. Its contribution to the recipient countries cannot be valued in terms of money". <Ends>

**90/3 C UNDRO SELECTS UN VOLUNTEERS FOR RELIEF WORK IN LIBERIA**

The UN Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRO) has turned to UN Volunteers to provide urgently three Field Monitors for its emergency relief operation in Liberia. In mid-February an UNDRO-led mission reported that the recent unrest in Nimba County had displaced 135,000 people within Liberia itself alone, i.e. not counting those who sought refuge in neighbouring countries. Rice, livestock and cash crops were almost exhausted, and village-to-town food supply had virtually ceased. Disruption to the health services was also reported to have led to fatalities.

UNV immediately assigned three experienced specialists to work with UNDRO and the Liberian Disaster Relief Commission:

* 63-year old Paul Manion from the **UK** was working as a business adviser in Nimba County for VSO - and had 12,000 motorbike miles there under his belt - when the conflict forced his recall. A retired financial and management accountant, he is delighted to have returned to help deliver the food, shelter and equipment which UNDRO is providing.

* Jayamaha Kumaratunga from **Sri Lanka** is a specialist in procurement and logistics. In a previous UNV assignment he supervised procurement and inventory management for the Ministry of Health in the Yemen Arab Republic; prior to that he had held storage management posts in Saudi Arabia.

* Lina Sanque was an experienced agriculturalist and agribusiness adviser in the **Philippines** before a successful assignment as a UNV specialist in rural development in Sudan, completed earlier this year, which concentrated on project formulation and design with particular reference to women's participation.

<Ends>

**90/3 D VIETNAM, ALREADY SUPPLIER, REQUESTS UN VOLUNTEERS**

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam, which has supplied volunteers to the United Nations Volunteers programme since 1985, is now itself seeking the services of UNVs for a range of development inputs. The State Committee for Science and Technology in Hanoi has also been designated as the National Focal Point for UNV affairs in the country.

These arrangements were provided for in a Co-operation Agreement signed in the course of a visit to Hanoi in late March by the Executive Co-ordinator of UNV, Dr. Brenda Gael McSweeney, who was accompanied in her discussions with the Vietnamese authorities by Mr. David Smith, Resident Representative of the UN Development Programme in Hanoi.

The volunteer specialists initially sought by Vietnam include a forestry engineer for nursery and fuelwood projects, and a rural water supply specialist, both for initiatives assisted by the World Food Programme; three people for UNICEF projects in the country - an information/communications specialist for health campaigns, a health educator to train trainers in the health sector, and a water sanitation/hydrogeology specialist; and a specialist in tourism development. Further requests are expected under the terms of a multisectoral UNV project also agreed in principle.

Four Vietnamese UNVs have successfully completed their assignments and nine are currently serving in nine different countries, such as Chad, Comoro Islands, Djibouti, and Samoa. They are mainly doctors but include a salt technologist in Tanzania and an agro-industrial mechanic in Madagascar.

<Ends>

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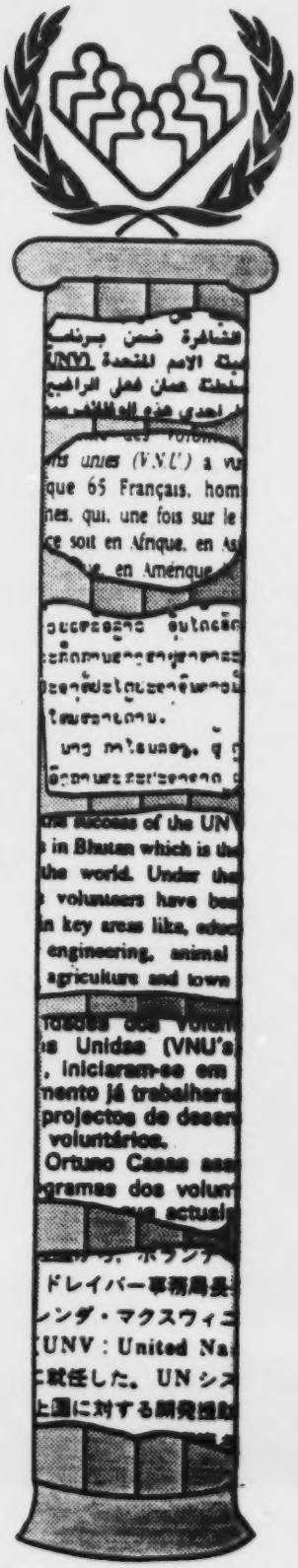

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**90/6 A 34 UNV COMMUNITY FIELD WORKERS FOR SRI LANKA**

34 new community field-workers from the United Nations Volunteers programme are to be assigned to Sri Lanka. Under the terms of UNV's participatory Domestic Development Services ("DDS") Project in the Asian Region, each of them will already have a proven "track record" in grassroots community development in another Asian country. Channeled through the National Youth Services Council (NYSC) of Sri Lanka, they will be attached to selected village development groups around the country. As catalysts of change they will promote such varied approaches as credit supply, on-the-job training, initiatives in health and nutrition, upgrading of skills and management capability, and appropriate technologies.

Speaking at a ceremony in Colombo where he signed an agreement with the NYSC to cover the provision of the field-workers, the Resident Representative of the UN Development Programme in Sri Lanka, Mr. Robert England, noted that the Sri Lankan Government had played a key role in encouraging UNV to launch the DDS Project in Asia in 1979 and that 17 local organisations, including the NYSC and the Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement, had been welcoming UNV field workers since.

Mr. England added that the new field workers could assist the recognition of Sri Lanka's young people as an important segment of society: the violence which had almost engulfed the country in recent years had been in his view a reflection of the frustration that young people had felt with lack of such recognition. <Ends>

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**90/6 B PERU SEEKS MALAYSIAN ADVICE ON YOUTH, DRUGS, VIA UNV**

Part of Peru's strategy for economic and social recovery is to set up a national volunteer scheme. To seek guidance in this context a team of four, drawn from the private sector, non-governmental organisations and self-help groups in Peru and associated with the country's Social Emergency Programme, spent a month on a joint mission organised by the UN Volunteers programme, in the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and India. Featuring high on the agenda in Malaysia was a major problem shared by the two countries - drug addiction.

Despite the efforts of many institutions in Peru to prevent addiction and to rehabilitate addicts, "poverty remains the most insurmountable obstacle": so said the team's spokesperson, Mr. Arturo José Tello, when visiting a drug rehabilitation centre in Malaysia. He pointed out that the drug problem is very serious in Peru, particularly amongst child addicts. He added that Malaysia had been chosen as one of the countries to be visited both because of its vigorous campaign against drug abuse and its advances in youth organisation.

Besides Mr. Tello (a lawyer from the National Confederation of Private Enterprise, who is helping to draft the terms of reference for the new volunteer scheme), the Peruvian team consisted of Ms. Lucila Martinez, a full-time volunteer as People's Kitchen Co-ordinator for Lima, and Ms. Vilma Aurora Montanez, an economist, and Sen. Estanislao Victor Davila, a chemical engineer, both associated with Caritas Peru. Their recommendations following the Asian study visit will appear shortly.

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**90/6 C ROAD ENGINEERS ARE FIRST UNVs TO ARRIVE IN SAUDI ARABIA**

The first United Nations Volunteers to work in Saudi Arabia arrived in June, thereby adding a fourteenth Arab State to the UNV programme.

They are Muhammed Kamruzzaman from Bangladesh and Adil Mohamed Abbas from Sudan. A 34 year-old civil engineer, Mr. Kamruzzaman has worked with engineering consultancy firms in Bangladesh, designing bridges, highways, culverts and buildings. At 33, Mr. Abbas holds a PhD in Civil Engineering from the University of Strathclyde in Scotland and has until recently lectured in Building Materials and Structures at the Building and Road Research Institute of the University of Khartoum.

Based on the Ministry of Communications in Riyadh, both men will work on a project of road network development, management and maintenance assisted by the UN Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD). They will join in a training programme for young Saudi engineers, in "structures studies" and in laboratory materials testing respectively.

UNV hopes to assign four further engineers to Saudi Arabia shortly.

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**90/6 D MALI'S CHIEF OF RADIO PRODUCTION TO HELP HAITIAN ELECTIONS**

On the initiative of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the Chief of Radio Production in Mali, Ms. Gnouma Keita, has arrived in Port au Prince for a two-year United Nations Volunteers assignment designed amongst other things to assist the fledgeling process of free elections in Haiti.

Based on the Haitian Centre for the Training of Journalists, a UNDP-funded project, she will be attached to Haiti's National Radio. Aside from arranging and giving training for broadcasting directors, planners and programmers, she will be called upon to contribute in general to opening up broadcasting and the diffusion of information between the capital city and the rest of the country.

"Development, democracy and the press are interlinked" said the UNDP Resident Representative in Haiti, Mr. Reinhart Helmke: "without the involvement of those for whom it is intended, of the population as a whole, there is no development. And without information and its communication there is no involvement. Information and communications are integral to the development process and to healthy democracy".

Gnouma Keita brings 25 years' experience her new task. For seven years she was a Primary teacher and for a further seven a trainer of literacy teachers in one of Mali's provinces. Eight years followed with Radio Télévision du Mali in charge of educational and children's broadcasting and women's programmes on radio. She has held the posts of Chief of Radio Production and General Controller, Radio. She holds a degree in Journalism from the Université Oriente in Havana, Cuba. <Ends>

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VOLONTAIRES DES NATIONS UNIES
UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS

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27/6/90

To: Recipients of the "UNV Column"

From: Bill Jackson, Senior External Relations Officer

Subject: "UNV Column"

As the sixth monthly issue of this new UNV medium goes out, it would help us greatly to know if it is proving of use to you, and whether you would want any amendments made. I have listed a few simple questions below, most of which apply to all recipients: could you take a minute to answer them and send the answers letter back to me at your earliest convenience ? Many thanks in advance.

Yours sincerely,

QUESTIONNAIRE

| Questions | Answers |
|---|---|
| 1. Is the "UNV Column" getting to the right person in your organisation ? If not, to whom should it go ? | |
| 2. Is the format (3-4 short news release-type stories) right for your needs ? If not, what would you prefer? | |
| 3. Are the stories set out (double spacing) as you need them ? | |
| 4. Are the stories on the right kind of topic ? Please make alternative suggestions if you wish. | |

5. Have you been able to use any of the material yet in your publications ? (Grateful if you would supply a copy if so).

6. Is the idea of a regular column on UNV a viable one for your publication ?

7. Would you prefer full-blown articles to the "UNV Column" ?

8. Would those articles preferably - or only - deal with UNVs who are co-sponsored by your organisation ?

9. Have you any names of journalists or other publications in your country to whom/which you would suggest we also mail "UNV Column" ?

10. Have you any other comments or suggestions related to the "UNV Column" ?

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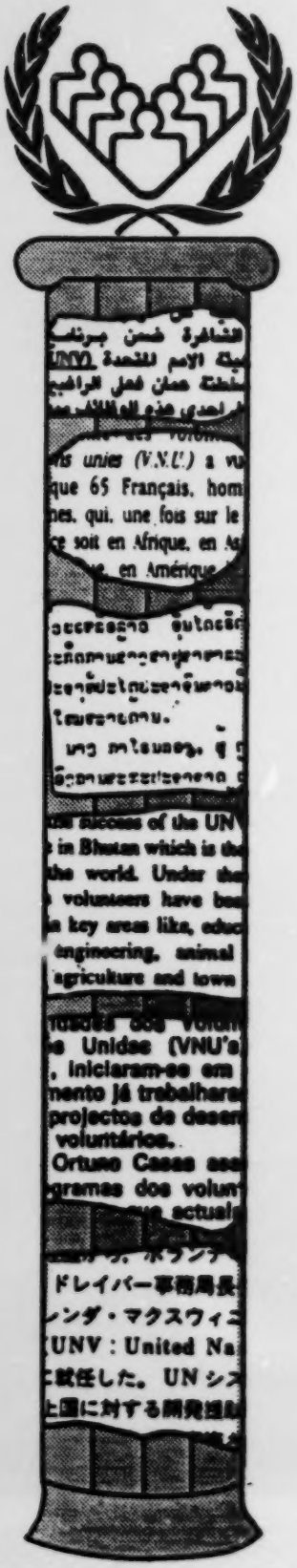

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**90/9 A US GIVES UNV $130,000 FOR FOOD MONITORING IN ETHIOPIA**

U.S. Representative to the UN in Geneva, Amb. Morris B. Abram, announced on 25 Sept. a $130,000 grant to provide five UN Volunteer Food Monitors to help with refugee work in Ethiopia.

In western Ethiopia some 375,000 people have sought refuge from the war in Sudan. In six camps over in the east there are some 360,000 refugees from Somalia, the majority women and children. Given the chronic food shortages and civil war situation prevailing in Ethiopia, there is little which the country itself can do to help beyond the grant of asylum, so that it falls to the international community to assist.

UNV is in the process of nominating candidates for the five posts. Two at leasst will be US citizens, identified through the US Peace Corps. Under the management of the World Food Programme and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the UN Volunteer specialists will monitor the handling, transportation, processing, storage and disbursement of the food provided. Visiting the camps frequently, they will check the nutritional status of the refugees, maintain statistics and account quarterly for the use of the commodities.

Dr. Brenda McSweeney, UNV's Executive Co-ordinator, stated: "This grant is an example of humanitarian co-operation between a major donor and the UN system. UNHCR and the Ethiopian Administration for Refugee Affairs outline the problem, the World Food Programme channels the foodstuffs, the United States authorities enable UNV to provide 60 person/months of competent professional monitoring by committed volunteers. In this way we can ensure that the three quarter million refugees who need the food get it as quickly as possible". <Ends>

## 90/9 B UNV INVOLVEMENT RECOMMENDED IN HELPING CONTAIN HIV/AIDS

Two consultancy missions have recommended to the United Nations Volunteers that it become more involved in helping contain the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and in care for AIDS victims and their families.

The missions visited Zaire and Rwanda, and Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia respectively. Statistics, they report, fail to convey the human suffering involved: the majority of the many thousands of HIV-infected persons in those countries do not know that they are infected; they die slowly from a disease for which there is no cure; families disintegrate; children are orphaned in thousands; babies are infected from birth; communities lose their productive adults - and poverty spreads. And all the time, AIDS is an additional burden on already scant health care resources.

A two-pronged approach is recommended for UNV, at community and national level. Community-oriented approaches should include home-based care and counselling, and help to strengthen local groups coping with AIDS, together with small-scale information campaigns targeted among others on young people, women, those with multiple partners, traditional birth attendants and healers, schoolteachers and health workers. UNV community animation fieldworkers should also facilitate basic needs assessment, mobilise such resources as exist, and concentrate on the particular needs of women and on income-generating projects. At national level, teams consisting of specialists in such areas as health policy and provision, clinical care and the training of counsellors should be assigned to strengthen country-wide AIDS prevention and control programmes.

The specific UNV assignments recommended would be supported under the UN Development Programme/World Health Organisation aliance to combat HIV/AIDS, which puts WHO's medical expertise and UNDP's experience in social and economic development at the disposal of Governments.

UNV's Recruitment Resources Division is confident that a special recruitment effort will turn up the requisite volunteer medical and counselling specialists and community fieldworkers without difficulty: in fact, its roster of candidates already contains a number from around the world who have instanced the area of HIV/AIDS containment as one in which they would be happy to work. <Ends>

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## 90/9 C UNV STUDIES VOLUNTEER ROLE IN FIGHTING URBAN POVERTY

The potential and roles for volunteers to participate in working with low-income urban communities was the topic for a special United Nations Volunteers consultation at the International Labour Organisation in Geneva, 27-28 September. It was attended by nearly 100 representatives of Governments from all continents, of UN Specialised Agencies, volunteer sending organisations, and non-governmental and community organisations working in this field.

Invited resource persons included Dr. Victor Tokman, Head of ILO's Employment Department; Senor Miguel Azcueta, former Mayor of Villa El Salvador, Peru, and an authority on community development in the urban context in Latin America; Professor Tade Aina of the Department of Sociology of the University of Lagos, Nigeria; Dr. Rajesh Tandon of the Society for Participatory Research, India; and Mr. Hasan K. Momin, a UNV specialist working with UNICEF in the slums of Kingston, Jamaica.

A first point of emphasis was that the term "the urban poor" is inappropriate, and harmful to the self-image and creative energy of low-income urban communities. They should be the subject and not the object of any interventions; their diversity should be acknowledged and their participation and empowerment be guiding principles; volunteer development workers from outside should seek to assist their initiatives. The overall perspective should be developmental, rather than humanitarian or welfare-based.

International volunteer sending organisations should focus on supporting the capacity both of State agencies (especially

municipal authorities) and of community-based bodies and local NGOs to respond to local needs. They should work through local leadership and structures. Volunteers, it was felt, can contribute usefully in this area through combining intermediate level technical support to government agencies, municipal authorities and NGOs with animation and strengthening of NGOs and community-based groups.

The various papers contributed will be published shortly, and an advisory note on the topic, revised in the light of the consultation, will be widely circulated. UNV will also now seek with its Co-operating Organisations in the volunteer field, with the field offices of the UN Development Programme and with the UN Agencies, to assess demand and to support initiatives already taken by countries throughout the developing world. A first workshop to chart specific programmes and the profiles of the kinds of volunteer required is likely to be held in Djakarta, Indonesia .

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**90/9 D UNV RUSHES VOLUNTEERS TO HELP GULF SITUATION REFUGEES**

The Geneva-based United Nations Volunteers programme is rushing six volunteers to Jordan - three to the World Food Programme and three to the International Organisation for Migration - to help them cope with the influx of refugees from Iraq and Kuwait. Net of refugees already evacuated onward by air from Jordan, there were 32,000 in border camps on 27 September.

The three volunteers working for the World Food Programme are already in position: they are Food Aid Monitors, asked to make needs assessments and to ensure effective distribution of the emergency food rations which WFP is providing. The other three arrive shortly and are to assist the International Organisation for Migration with organising reception of the refugees and their transfer from the border camps to the evacuation flights from Jordan's capital, Amman. The assignments are funded by the UN Disaster Relief Organisation.

The worldwide network of UNV's recruitment (1,921 volunteers from 103 countries at work in September) is reflected in the nationalities of the five assigned to Jordan. Two are from Pakistan, two from Somalia and one from Bangladesh.

Abu Syed Mohamed Saifuzzaman from Bangladesh, who previously worked for CARE and the American Save the Children Fund in his own country, has been serving as a UN Volunteer specialist Food Aid Monitor with WFP in Sudan. Abdirahman Mohamed Meygag and Ismail Jama Adan have been working for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in refugee camps in their home country, Somalia.

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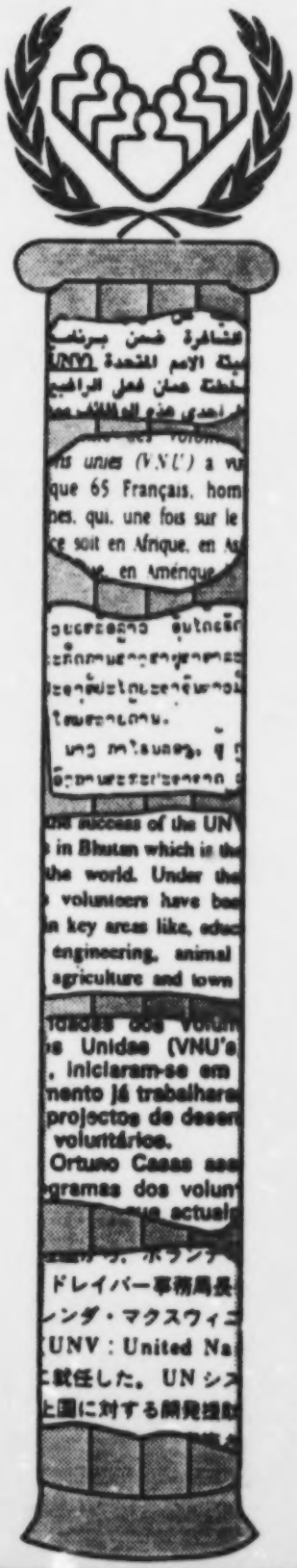

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90/11 A **NUMBER OF SERVING UNVs TOPS 2,000**

The number of United Nations Volunteers currently serving in developing countries topped the 2,000 mark in November, and stood at 2,009 on November 30th.

The UNV programme became operational in 1971 and the organisation will thus mark its Twentieth Anniversary next year. It was not until fourteen years into its work, however - in 1985 - that it had 1,000 volunteers in the field. Its growth over the last four years has been very rapid, averaging 15% per annum.

UNV's Executive Co-ordinator, Dr. Brenda Gael McSweeney, puts the rapid growth down to several factors. "First", she said, "UNV is now known to Governments and UN Agencies in the field for the quality of its product - qualified, experienced, mature and motivated technical co-operation staff. Whether at national, regional or village level, UNVs are seen as thoroughly competent professionals who want to work with the peoples of the Third World "where they are at". Second, the development process is now more clearly seen to have to begin at local level and work its way up - and it's largely at the local level that volunteers work - and work best. Third, our volunteers cost about a quarter of some equivalent forms of technical co-operation manpower".

The 2,009 UNVs comprise 105 nationalities and are at work in 114 countries: 87% come from developing countries themselves. 79% are aged betwen 31 and 55, and 5% are over 55. Half serve in Africa, and a third in Asia. Most urgently needed are candidates with professional experience and spoken Spanish and Portuguese, together with women and retired or pre-retirement personnel of any language background. <Ends>

**90/11 B DONOR GOVERNMENT PLEDGES FOR UNV UP BY 50%**

Pledges made by donor governments or which Governments have stated will be forthcoming, to support the work of the United Nations Volunteers in 1991, are up by 50% on last year. The pledges were made in New York in November, together with those to the United Nations Development Programme.

The amounts - pledged and expected for UNV's Special Voluntary Fund - total some $950,000, compared with $616,000 in 1989. Amongst countries to increase their core contribution significantly were Switzerland and Tunisia. Some 15 developing countries contributed approximately $70,000.

UNV's Executive Co-ordinator, Dr. Brenda Gael McSweeney, stated her delight at what she saw as "a vote of confidence in what 2,000 UN Volunteer specialists and field-workers are doing to make the long and complex process of development a real one for the people of the villages of the Third World".

Dr. McSweeney also noted that these pledges are distinct from other major special purpose donations to UNV amounting to almost $4.6m. Amongst others, Belgium is to fund assignments in Namibia, for an outlay of $120,000; France has provided $625,000 to assist the placement of French nationals as UNVs; Germany is underpinning with $1.3m UNV's participatory Domestic Development Services project at the grassroots in seven African countries; Japan has donated $2.2m in all for UN Volunteers' work alongside the UN Co-ordinator's Office in Afghanistan, in humanitarian assistance in South-East Asia, and for community development work in the Pacific; and the USA has provided $130,000 towards the fielding of UNV Food Aid Monitors in the context of famine and refugee work in Ethiopia. <Ends>

**90/11 C GINSENG & GARLIC RESEARCHER IS FIRST KOREAN UNV**

The first citizen of the Republic of Korea to serve as a United Nations Volunteer specialist is Ms. Yun Zoo BAE, a 26 year-old research agriculturalist, who has carried out studies on ginseng and garlic amongst other plants. She arrived in the Pacific Ocean's Cook Islands in early November to take up the post of Research Officer with the Ministry of Agriculture.

Her task at Totokoitu Research Station is to strengthen the Ministry's research and production of food crops. This will involve plant breeding for better yields and for resistance to crop diseases, as well as training of Cook Islands personnel.

Ms. Bae holds a Bachelor's degree in Agronomy and a Master's in Agriculture from Kyungbuk National University in Taegu. Her research work with the University and the Kyungbuk Provincial Rural Development Administration has included micro-propagation in vitro of rice, garlic, ginseng, apples and potatoes, production of virus-free strawberry plants, and tissue culturing of tobacco plants.

Last April an agreement was signed in Seoul designating the Korea Science & Engineering Foundation as National Focal Point for recruitment of Korean nationals for the UNV programme. As a result, nine candidates have been rostered, and Ms. Bae is the first to be assigned. A second Korean UNV, Ms. In-Jin HONG, arrived in Oman at the end of November as an instructor in sewing and embroidery, where she will review curricula and manuals and participate in training women community development workers.

Both assignments are fully-funded by the Korean Government.

<Ends>

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**90/11 D USSR SPONSORS ITS FIRST UNV - A PAEDIATRICIAN FOR SAMOA**

Now settling into work as a paediatrician at the National Hospital in Apia, Samoa, is Dr. Oleg Philippovich Ivanov, the first Soviet citizen to be officially sponsored by the USSR as a United Nations Volunteer.

With funding from the UN Development Programme, United Nations Volunteers has been providing medical personnel to Samoa since 1984. At present 19 UNVs in all are assigned to the Health Department, including seven General Practitioners, nine Specialists, a laboratory Technologist, a Refrigeration Engineer and an Accountant.

As well as attending to child in-patients and out-patients, Dr. Ivanov is to help train Samoan nurses and paramedical staff in aspects of paediatrics. He is well qualified and experienced for the task: qualifying at the First Moscow Medical Institute in 1964, he did postgraduate work there on connective tissue diseases in children. He has been a District Paediatrician in Sakhalin Province in the far east of the Soviet Union, and also worked for four years in Zambia in the 1970s. Back at the Institute for the fift n years prior to joining UNV, he became Senior Lecturer and Consultant Paediatrician, specialising in rheumatic diseases and researching reactive arthritis.

Dr. Ivanov's assignment is the first to follow signature of a Memorandum in February between UNV and the Soviet authorities. He was recruited by the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, and funding for the external costs of the assignment (i.e. outside Samoa) have been met by the Soviet Peace Fund.

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